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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS

U. S. Department of Agriculture
and State Agricultural Colleges
Cooperating.

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This Looks Good

THE COUNTY AGENT ON THE JOB IN AN EMERGENCY.

The alertness and resource of the county agent in Umatilla County, Oregon, saved the large grain farmers of this county many dollars in direct cost and avoided serious loss of crop. In late spring it was discovered that the stocks of motor fuel for tractors and trucks was so low that plowing could not be completed and many farmers were seriously alarmed regarding the possibility of securing an adequate supply of fuel for harvest. Virtually every part of the State was affected by the shortage of motor fuel and in some sections the available supply was rationed out. Distillate had been entirely taken off the market. In this crisis the county agent of Umatilla County, Mr. Fred Bennion, with the help of the State Leader's office, got into touch with a possible source of supply of distillate in California. At first this firm refused to make quotations but with the help of the California State Marketing Bureau the oil refining company finally did make a price and cooperated heartily with the Umatilla Farm Bureau to supply fuel.

The orders of farmers were then pooled. Banks were instructed to honor the demands on accounts of those in the pool and an initial order of twelve cars or 100,661 gallons of distillate were distributed in May. One hundred and eleven farmers joined in this pool and thereby saved \$9,060. Increasing interest was manifested in this service so an assistant was engaged who gave his entire attention to the project. A charge of a fraction of a cent per gallon over the cost of the distillate on board cars locally was levied in order to pay for the expenses and salary of the assistant.

During June two more cars and in July eight more cars were distributed, making a total of 285,881 gallons of fuel. It is estimated that the entire saving totalled at least \$15,000. All available storage was used to provide a supply of fuel for the harvest, thus avoiding serious inconvenience and loss.

During the month of June a similar service was given the farmers by the county agents in Morrow, Sherman and Wasco counties respectively. Similar pools were organized and in these three counties a total of 195,000 gallons of distillate were secured and distributed at a great saving to the farmers. This type of service will long be remembered by the farmers of the grain belt of Eastern Oregon.

County Agent Section

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